Modernisation of Sick Sugar Factories

1569. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering modernisation and rehabilitation of those sugar factories which are not economically viable during 1993-94; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b) The central Government does not undertake modernisation and rehabilitation of the sugar factories. It however, provides financial assistance to sugar factories on soft terms from the Sugar Development Fund for undertaking modernisation and rehabilitation.

Negotiation with Thai Government for Import of Rice

@1570. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times dated 19th June, 1993 entitled "India in Thailand Rice Scandal";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have negotiated with the Thai Government to purchase 2,86,000 Metric Tons of rice in March this year; and

(d) if so, what are reasons for breaking the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As the news item reports on the internal affairs of Thailand, Government of India does not feel it appropriate to make any comment.

(c) and (d) Government had examined the possibilities of import of rice of cheaper varieties from Thailand and three other countries of Asia in the beginning of this year; but the matter was subsequently dropped as it was found that such imports would not be commercially viable without subsidy and the Government was also able to build up adequate stocks of both wheat and rice in the Central Pool during the current procurement season.

Installation of Sugar Factories In Andhra Pradesh

1571. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications from the Government of Andhra Pradesh pending for setting up of sugar factories;

(b) if so, since how long they are pending; and

(c) the stage at which the consideration stands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b) 98 applications received through the Department of Industrial Development were pending for setting up of new sugar factories in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Majority of applications have benn received during the calendar years 1990 and 1991.

(c) The pending applications of the State of Andhra Pradesh will shortly be scrutinised by the Screening Committee in the Ministry of Food.

Wheat Damaged in the Godowns of Haryana

1572. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of wheat procured from the Mandis of Haryana by all the Agencies during this season;

(b) the quantity out of so procured which is still lying in various godowns in Haryana;

(c) whether the wheat lying in Haryana godowns has been damaged on account of floods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) A quantity of 34.54 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured by all the public procuring agencies for the Central Pool in Haryana upto 30-7-93 in the current 1993-94 Rabi Marketing Season.

(b) 34.27 lakh tonnes of wheat stock was held in Haryana as on 30-6-1993.

(c) and (d) The details of quantity of wheat affected by floods and rains in Haryana are as under :—

@ Previously unstarred Question 549 transferred from 29-7-93.